thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) No new decision has been taken.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Production and Demand of Aluminum

1238. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of aluminium in the country is far short of its demand;

(b) if so, the quantum of short-fall and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Closure of Rolling Mills in Bihar

1239. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the rolling mills lying closed in Bihar and since when;

(b) the reasons for their closure;

(c) the total investment made in those mills and the number of persons rendered unemployed due to their closure; and

(d) the steps being taken to restart these mills and the time by which these are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):(a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Linkage of Southern Rivers

1240. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have conducted the feasibility study regarding the linkage of southern rivers such as Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Caubery;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether any technical help has been sought from Israel in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any assistance from the World Bank is likely to be received for the project and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the World Bank has also conducted the feasibility study of the project; and

(f) whether the project is likely to resolve the Cauvery Water Dispute or any other water dispute and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI C. VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) National Water Development Agency has completed pre-feasibility reports for seven water transfer links including Mahanadi (Manibhadra)- Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) Link, Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) Link and Godavari (Inchampalli)- Krishna (Pulichintala) Link.

(b) Estimated cost of all the links forming part of the proposed Mahanadi-Cauvery

links has not been worked out as yet. Estimated cost for the links for which pre-feasibility reports have been prepared by National Water Development Agency are as follows:

(1) Mahanadi(Manibhadra)- Godavari(Dowlaiswaram) Link	Rs. 3616 Crores.
(2) Godavari(Polavaram)-Krishna(Vijayawada) Link	Rs. 1123 Crores.
(3) Godavari(Inchampalli)-Krishna(Pulichintala) Link	Rs. 2700 Crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) At present there is no such proposal.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The concept of inter linking of rivers as envisaged in the National Perspectives of water resources development is for transfer of water from surplus to water short areas and will help in resolving water scarcity and flood inundation problems.

Retreival of Katchathivu Island from Sri Lanka

1241. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI DATTATRAY BANDARU:
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI V.S. VIDAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to hold talks with the Government of Sri Lanka on the issue of retrieval of Katchathivu island from Sri Lanka;

(b) if not, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has made any demand for the retrieval of the Island;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the position taken by the Union Government thereon;

(e) whether the Union Government are aware of the increasing incidents of firing by Sri Lankan Navy of the Indian fishermen off the coast of Katchativu; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government regard the delimitation of Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary through the Agreements of 1974 and 1976 as a settled matter.

(c) and (d) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister in her Independence Day address on 15 August 1991 is reported to have called on the Centre to take action for the retrieval of Katchathivu from Sri Lanka.

In terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Agreements of 1974 and 1976, the Island of Katchathivu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the International Boundary Line. There is no change in the Government's position in this regard.

(e) Yes

(f) All reported cases of hostile action by Sri lankan Navy against our fish- men were taken up strongly by Government with Sri Lanka Government who have been asked to deal with it in a legal and humane manner.